

Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation.

Sinclair has use of public airwaves free of charge. This is PUBLICLY OWNED patrimony, and those privileged to use them are obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, as is currently the case in America, we get more of what's good for the bottom line, often including partisan propaganda, and less of what we need to nurture and preserve our democracy. Instead of something produced at some distant corporate office, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and more substantive news about issues that matter.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard, and needs, desperately, to be reviewed, objectively and now. Thank you.